Spreading of deadly diseases In fhe country

† 1498. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that deadly disease like Plague, Malaria, Smallpox, etc. are spreading rapidly throughout the country again;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the deadly disease which spread in various part of the country recently was Plague; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to check the recurrence of such diseases, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) It is not true that deadly diseases like Plague, Malaria and Smallpox are spreading rapidly in the country again. In fact, the country has been declared free of Smallpox since 1980. No case of Smallpox has been reported from India since then.

As far as Plague is concerned, a small foeal outbreak of Pneumonic Plague was reported from Hatkoti Village of Jubbal-Kotkhai Block, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh, wherein 16 cases were reported out of which four deaths occurred. However, containment measures were taken effectively by the State Government with technical assistance from Central Government Institutes like National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (?GI), Chandigarh to contain the outbreak. Further, Plague has not been reported in the recent past from any other part of the country.

As regards Malaria, a nation-wide National Anti Malaria Programme is implemented with an outlay of Rs. 1030 crores during IXth plan period and as a result of this Programme, considerable success has been achieved in controlling spread of Malaria and in

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

reducing the number of cases as well as number of deaths due to Malaria.

Female foeticide

1499. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh steps have been taken by Government recently to check the reported rampant female foeticide being practised, especially through the mushrooming unregistered clinics and labs in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the practical difficulties being faced by the States in this regard and strategies worked out to overcome them through Government guidelines and/or social awareness programmes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) With a view to contain the menace of female foeticide, Government has enacted and brought into force the Prc-Nata] Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misucs) Act, 1994 (PNDT Act) with effect from 1.1.1996. The implementation of the provisions of the Act rests with the Statcs/UTs. The Supreme Court of India has also issued directions to both Central and State Governments for implementation of the Act.

The Central Government have requested all the State Governments/UTs to implement the provisions of the Act and comply with the directions of the the Hon'blc Supreme Court of India with full vigor and zeal. Appropriate Authorities and Advisory Committees have been appointed under the Act in all the States/ UTs. These have been appointed at district and at some places at sub-district levels in most of the Statcs/UTs. They arc taking action to generate awareness about the provisions of the Act in public and among law enforcing agencies, service providers, medical and paramedical personnel by hoardings, wall paintings, news papers, All India Radio, TV and other means of publicity. The Central